

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated October 9, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 9, 2008. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6-19, 22, 23, 25, 29-35, 42, 43, 49, 52, 53, 63-65, 98, and 99 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Metcalfe et al.* (US Patent 6,543,552 B1) in view of *Clark* (US Patent 2,499,630). Claim 44 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Metcalfe et al.* and *Clark* in view of *Lauritzen et al.* (US Patent 6,722,441 B2). In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to be identical to previous claim 100, which was allowed. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

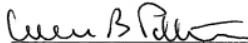
Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5 and 45 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants have rewritten claim 45 to be in independent form and including the allowable subject matter indicated in the previous office action. Further, claim 100 as amended represents previous claim 5 written in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection and allowance of the claims.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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